

# Hanford's single-shell tanks

Washington's Department of Ecology invites you to comment on the proposed permit for the single-shell tanks (SST) at Hanford. The draft permit is available for your review. The comment period will end Sunday, September 30, 2012.

## About the tanks

Hanford's single-shell tanks (SSTs) are part of an underground tank system. This system is in Hanford's Central Plateau and consists of 149 underground storage tanks in 12 groups (called "tank farms") connected by more than 100 miles of pipes, valve boxes, and related equipment.

Ecology is adding the SST system to the permit we issue to the U.S. Department of Energy for managing dangerous and mixed wastes at Hanford.

We are reissuing the permit for Hanford, and the comment period is now under way. The SST part of the permit is now available for public review. Ecology will hold a public hearing on the SST part of the permit (or any other part of the permit) on Tuesday, August 7.

## Background

Because the SSTs were built so long ago, they do not comply with today's regulations. The SSTs system must be closed as soon as possible. There is no practical alternative to the continued storage of waste in these tanks for the next several decades. According to the Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), closure of the SST system will take 31 years.

Though this is a closing unit, the permit will have conditions to:

- Specify some basic and necessary operations and maintenance requirements.
- Maintain safety during all work efforts.
- Protect people and the environment.
- List general closure plan requirements.
- Incorporate TPA milestones and schedules.

## PUBLIC HEARING

- Tuesday, August 7, 2012
- 5:30 pm
- Richland Public Library  
955 Northgate Drive

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- [Public notice for Hanford's dangerous waste permit](#)
- [Tank Closure 101](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

Join Hanford's email lists:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/lists.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/lists.htm)

View the full permit:  
[www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/permitting/hdwp](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/permitting/hdwp)

Questions? Comments? Email:  
[Hanford@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Hanford@ecy.wa.gov)

## ABOUT SEPA

We are not issuing a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determination with this unit because it was completed already through the Hanford Tank Waste Remediation System Environmental Impact Statement.

When we modify the permit in the future – for closure of the tanks, for example – we will issue draft SEPA determinations at the same time as public comment for those permit changes.

## Permittee

U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection, PO Box 550, Richland, WA 99352

## Special accommodations

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call 509-372-7950. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with speech disability call 877-833-6341.



3100 Port of Benton Blvd  
Richland, WA 99354

## **Public Hearing**

Hanford's Single-Shell Tanks  
August 7, 2012  
Richland Public Library

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**What's next?** When the comment period closes on September 30, we will consider the comments received and revise the permit if needed. Then we will issue the final permit and a responsiveness summary. The permit will be in effect for 10 years.

### **Hanford's Public Information Repositories**

University of Washington  
Suzzallo Library, Govt Pubs Dept  
Seattle, WA 98195  
Hilary Reinert (206) 543-5597  
Reinerth@uw.edu

Portland State University  
Government Information  
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Portland, OR 97207-1151  
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Foley Center Library  
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John S. Spencer (509) 313-6110  
spencer@gonzaga.edu

Washington State University  
Consolidated Information Center  
Room 101  
Richland, WA 99352  
Janice Parthree (509) 375-3308  
Janice.parthree@pnnl.gov

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3100 Port of Benton Boulevard  
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Valarie Peery (509) 372-7920  
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U.S. Department of Energy  
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